

BRITISH POLITICS.

ANOTHER FRENCH INTERVIEW.

"REMEMBER FASHODA."

NATIONAL DEFENCE ASSURED.

PARIS, Dec. 26.

The "Matin" interviewed Mr. Lloyd George on the Riviera, and in the course of his remarks the Chancellor of the Exchequer repeated the statement he had made in his recent interview with a representative of the Paris "Humanite" (Socialist) regarding his surprise that the Democrats of France were unopposed to the English Liberals. Had Frenchmen, he asked, forgotten the Liberal attitude in connection with the Dreyfus affair and the Fashoda incident? Did they remember the speeches that were then delivered by Lord Salisbury and Mr. Joseph Chamberlain?

The "Matin" interviewer suggested that France feared that domestic conflicts would divert England's attention from national defence, whereupon Mr. Lloyd George replied: "Britain is going to war for domestic affairs calmly and very gradually, and that will in no wise affect her naval expenditure."

THE BOLTON DISASTER.

WORK OF RESCUE PARTIES.

VIEWING THE DEAD.

PITIFUL SCENES.

LONDON, Dec. 26.

Queen Alexandra has given £100 to the relief fund in connection with the disaster at Pretoria pit, Bolson, Lancashire.

It is estimated that there are 1000 dependents of the miners who have perished in the explosion.

One woman has lost her husband, four sons, and two nephews. One man has lost 30 relatives.

The sum of £17,000 has already been subscribed to the relief fund.

Pitiable scenes occurred at the company's office on Saturday, when the women drew the final pay of their husbands.

Disasters have also occurred at the Mortuary, where relatives of the dead passed through, raising the sheet at each bed. The clogs, tea-can, and clothes of the deceased were placed outside the sheets.

The faces of the dead have been washed, but are still an ugly blackness.

One hundred and forty-five bodies have been recovered. One hundred rescuers will continue the work of exploring the mine during Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

TWO HUNDRED BODIES RECOVERED.

LONDON, Dec. 26.

During Christmas Day 4,000 people visited the Bolton disaster.

Three-quarters of the mine has now been explored, and 263 bodies have been recovered.

The message of condolence forwarded on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia and of New South Wales has been published.

A CHAPTER OF SUICIDES.

ONE DAY IN NAPLES.

A RECORD OF EIGHT.

NAPLES, Dec. 25.

Eight cases of suicide occurred in the city in one day.

A cavalry officer blew his brains out, and a youth committed suicide after attempting to shoot, with a revolver, a girl who had filed him.

Three girls swallowed poison; a student, who had failed his exam, examined himself with gas; a sculptor drank a corrosive poison; and a railway employee, who had quarrelled with his wife, threw himself in front of an express train.

THE BOLSOVER ACCIDENT.

CHILDREN CAUGHT BETWEEN TRAINS.

LONDON, Dec. 26.

Particulars with reference to the accident at Bolsover, Derbyshire, when a train dashed into a party of children, killing four, show that the children were turning to the Bolsover Colliery Company's model village, singing carols and topical songs. They were crossing the railway line when a passenger train and a goods train travelling in different directions caught a number of them in a trap.

The accident happened in full view of hundreds of children and adults.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN NAVY.

THE NEW PROGRAMME.

TO COST FOURTEEN MILLIONS.

VIENNA, Dec. 26.

The naval programme to be submitted to the Delegations on Wednesday proposes that two Dreadnoughts are to be completed in the autumn of 1913, two more in 1915, and three fast cruisers, 12 torpedo boats, and four submarines in 1917. The programme involves a cost of £14,000,000.

SPURIOUS PICTURES.

STATE TAKES UP PROSECUTION.

PARIS, Dec. 26.

Mrs. Paine, widow of the American copper king, has withdrawn the charges she made against a pseudo Count and Countess d'Anby de Glagiaty, of having sold her spurious pictures for £40,000. The State, however, will continue the prosecution.

LOST IN THE AIR.

AN OMINOUS REPORT.

OSTREND, Dec. 26.

A pilot reports having passed at sea a ship and wires resembling those of an aeroplane. It is feared that they are part of the machine of the missing airman, Mr. Cecil Gordon, who was last seen off the North Foreland, competing for the Baron de Forest Prize.

AN EMPEROR'S LARGESSE.

THE GENEROUS HUNTMAN.

BERLIN, Dec. 26.

The Emperor, disguised as a huntsman, strolled in the neighbourhood of Potsdam on Christmas morning, and distributed silver coins among the woodmen. He also left coins in the empty sentry boxes.

HAWES RAILWAY DISASTER.

GAS TANK EXPLODES.

CARRIAGES ON FIRE.

STUDENT'S PATHETIC DEATH.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

The fire which followed the collision of the Glasgow express with two light engines, on the Midland Railway, near Hawes, Yorkshire, is attributed to the explosion of a gas tank. A high wind fanned the flames.

The two rear-most carriages were uncoupled, and were thereby saved.

The driver and fireman of the express had marvellous escapes, sustaining only minor injuries.

Rescuers feverishly tried to release a medical student who was imprisoned among the wreckage, but the fire, sweeping with great ferocity, threatened the would-be rescuers, and sent by them a message to his mother, when the fire consuming the wreckage silenced his voice for ever.

HOW IT HAPPENED.

A SIGNALMAN'S ADMISION.

LONDON, Dec. 26.

Button, a signalman, who has worked at Hawes for 21 years, admits that he transferred the two light engines from a branch to the main line in order to deal with seven engines returning south.

Button then forgot the two engines, which he was unable to see owing to a rainstorm, and he signalled "line clear" to the express. The drivers of all three engines presumed that the signal referred to themselves.

The identification of the dead is proceeding by means of the non-arrival at their destinations of people who travelled in the train.

CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND.

A QUIET OBSERVANCE.

FESTIVITIES ON BOXING DAY.

LONDON, Dec. 26.

Fine, warm weather marked Christmas Day. The day was practically observed as Sunday. There was carol-singing in the majority of the hospitals and workhouses, but the major festivities were postponed until Boxing Day.

In the evening the picture palaces in London showed cinematographs of religious subjects. There were special fetes at the leading theatres.

THE ROYAL FAMILY.

LONDON, Dec. 26.

King George, Queen Mary, and their family spent Christmas Day at York Cottage. The children took gifts to Queen Alexandra in the early morning.

The Royal Family met in the churchyard in the forenoon, and then attended service, King Edward's pew, which was vacant, was specially decorated.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

A SECOND EDITION.

PEKING, Dec. 26.

A second Imperial edict ordered the Constitutional Bureau to prepare a constitutional programme, including the formation of a responsible Cabinet.

The two edicts are regarded as a means of appeasing the popular demand for a Parliament without forfeiting the Government's dignity.

POLITICS IN CHINA.

DEALING WITH AGITATORS.

PEKING, Dec. 25.

In consequence of recent petitions, an Imperial edict has been issued sternly rebidding agitation in Parliamentary matters. It also excludes agitators from Peking.

THE FATAL LEVEL CROSSING.

SIX PEOPLE KILLED.

PARIS, Dec. 26.

An express train dashed into a carriage containing nine people at a level crossing at Chateaufort, and the occupants of the vehicle were killed.

THE GERMAN CROWN PRINCE.

JAIPUR, Dec. 26.

The German Crown Prince is at present indulging in the sport of pig-sticking and tiger shooting.

OBITUARY.

LORD ANCASTER.

LONDON, Dec. 26.

The death is announced of Lord Ancestor.

Gilbert Henry Heathcote-Drummond-Wiloughby, 1st Earl of Ancestor, was born in October, 1837. He succeeded his father, the second Baron Ancestor, in 1887, and his title in 1903. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1887 to 1903.

CAUSE OF THE REBELLION.

GENERAL CABLES.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

In connection with the recent Parliamentary elections petitions have been filed in the case of North Louth, alleging intimidation, and in the case of King's Lynn on the ground of alleged treating.

The estate of the late Earl Spencer has been sworn at £642,555.

The Board of Education has fixed the London County Council £10,000 for reducing school classes to a maximum of 60 scholars.

EXTENT OF UPRISING UNKNOWN.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 26.

The Chamber of Deputies has agreed to Shekfat Pasha's proposal for the expenditure of three millions sterling in reorganising the army.

BUSH FIRES.

A NUMBER OF FIRES.

AFTERNOON.

The first call was received to assist at the Military Reserve, where a fire had broken out. The fire was extinguished by the fire engine.

Some time ago a fire broke out in the house of a man named John, who was a member of the fire brigade. The fire was extinguished by the fire engine.

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THE ISLAND MASSACRES.

PUNITIVE EXPEDITIONS.

DESPATCHED.

OVER 100 NATIVE TROOPS.

ACTING GOVERNOR IN CHARGE.

RABAU (N.W. BRITAIN), Dec. 1.

A punitive expedition was created in the morning last evening by the arrival of the German, bringing the terrible news of the massacre of four German officials at Ponape.

Early this morning the Acting Governor, Mr. H. J. McKenna, was expected to lead a troop of native constabulary to proceed at once to Ponape for the relief of the settlement and the punishment of the murderers.

In the afternoon the Acting Governor left the Harbour for Ponape, via Kaviro (New Ireland). He took two German officials with him, some 70 native constabulary, and as Kaviro he will take on board 40 or 50 more native troops, giving them a force of over 100.

The German steamer *Blau* was immediately chartered by the Government, and sent to Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen, German New Guinea, to bring further reinforcements of native police.

THE STAR LEAVES.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

The Star arrived this morning, and left at once for Ponape with about a hundred troops and provisions.

It is said to be the intention of the Acting Governor on arrival at Ponape to proceed at once to the punishment of the natives connected with the massacre. If he finds on arrival that the other white settlers have also been killed, he will at once on his return to the Harbour, and then proceed to the German scudron in Chinese waters for further reinforcements, as in such a case his force would not be strong enough to attack the natives.

The natives in Ponape are believed to have a very large number of guns, and if they succeed in taking the fort they will secure a further 100 or 200 army rifles, with a large quantity of ammunition.

THE SCENE OF THE TRAGEDY.

LONDON, Dec. 26.

The Caroline Islands, as well as other islands in the same latitudes, were formerly Spanish possessions. The Spaniards never found them a profitable possession, on the contrary, they were always a source of trouble and expense. In fact, during the whole period of their possession they never managed to effectually subdue the natives.

Ponape was their headquarters, and here they built a fort, and from what can be ascertained their authority was only within the bounds of the fort. The Spaniards were usually quartered there, as well as two or three gunboats.

Some time ago a company had been sent to the Caroline Islands, being ambitious to extend their colonial possessions, and to acquire their interests in the Caroline, Mariana, and other groups of islands, for something like £200,000. As the Spaniards had a very bad name for Germany, and as the Spaniards had nothing but trouble and expense since acquiring these islands. Commercially speaking, they were of little value. They were in fact, a source of trouble and expense, and were a source of trouble and expense.

UNDER GERMAN RULE.

LONDON, Dec. 26.

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